

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Adoption of STIP Guidelines
CTC Resolution G-99-24

- 1.1 WHEREAS in accordance with Section 14530.1 of the Government Code, the California Department of Transportation (Department), in cooperation with regional agencies, county commissions, local agencies, and Commission staff developed guidelines for the development of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and incorporation of projects into the STIP, and
- 1.2 WHEREAS the Department submitted the proposed guidelines to the Commission on February 1, 1999, and
- 1.3 WHEREAS the Commission conducted a public hearing on the proposed guidelines in southern California on June 7, 1999 and a second public hearing on the proposed guidelines in northern California on July 15, 1999, and
- 1.4 WHEREAS the proposed guidelines are a complete and full statement of the policy, standards, and criteria the Commission intends to use in programming and funding projects in the STIP, and
- 1.5 WHEREAS in accordance with section 14530.1 of the Government Code, the Commission is required to adopt STIP guidelines,
- 2.1 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the California Transportation Commission does hereby adopt the STIP guidelines as proposed, subject to correction of several typographical errors, and
- 2.2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the adopted STIP guidelines shall supersede the 1998 STIP interim guidelines as amended by CTC resolution #G-99-05, and
- 2.3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Commission requests the Department, in cooperation with the Commission staff, to distribute copies of the adopted STIP guidelines to regional agencies, county transportation commissions and representatives of local agencies and transit agencies.

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION STIP GUIDELINES

**(Adopted by the California Transportation Commission August 18, 1999)
CTC RESOLUTION G-99-24**

**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
STIP GUIDELINES**

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I. INTRODUCTION:

1. **Purpose and Authority.** These guidelines describe the policy, standards, criteria and procedures for the development, adoption and management of the STIP. They were developed and adopted in cooperation with Caltrans, regional transportation planning agencies, county transportation commissions and local agencies in accordance with Government Code Section 14530.1. The guidelines were developed and adopted with the following basic objectives:
 - Develop and manage the STIP as a resource management document.
 - Facilitate transportation decision making by those who are closest to the transportation problems.
 - Recognize that although Caltrans is owner-operator of the State highway system, the regional agencies have the lead responsibility for resolving urban congestion problems , including those on state highways.
 - Provide incentives for regional accountability for the timely use of funds.
 - Facilitate the California Transportation Commission, and Caltrans role as guardian of State capital dollars, with responsibility for determining how best to manage those dollars in a wise and cost-effective manner.
 - Facilitate cooperative programming and funding ventures between regions and between Caltrans and regions.

The Commission intends to carry out these objectives through its guidelines, stressing accountability, flexibility, and simplicity.

2. **Biennial Fund Estimate.** By July 15 of each odd numbered year Caltrans shall submit to the Commission a proposed fund estimate for the following four year STIP period. The Commission shall adopt the fund estimate by August 15 of that same year. The assumptions on which the fund estimate is based shall be determined by the Commission in consultation with Caltrans, regional agencies and county transportation commissions.
3. **STIP Adoption.** Not later than April 1 of each even numbered year the Commission shall adopt a four year STIP and submit it to the legislature and to the Governor. The STIP shall be a statement of the Commission's intent for allocation and expenditure of funds for the following four years as well as a resources management document to assist in the planning and utilization of transportation resources in a cost-effective manner. The STIP shall be developed consistent with the fund estimate and the total amount programmed in each fiscal year of the STIP shall not exceed the amount specified in the fund estimate. The adopted STIP shall remain in effect until a new STIP is adopted for the next two year STIP cycle.
4. **Amendments To STIP Guidelines.** The Commission may amend the adopted STIP guidelines after first giving notice of the proposed amendment and conducting at least one public hearing. The guidelines may not be amended or modified during the period between thirty days following the adoption of the fund estimate and the adoption of the STIP.

5. Federal TIPs and Federal STIP. These guidelines apply only to the transportation programming requirements specified in state statutes. They do not apply to transportation programming requirements specified in federal statutes. Generally, all projects receiving federal transportation funds must be programmed in a federal TIP (for projects in urbanized regions) and also in a federal STIP. Metropolitan Planning Organizations are responsible for developing and adopting federal TIPs and Caltrans is responsible for preparing the federal STIP. The requirements for federal TIPs and the federal STIP are specified in federal statutes (Title 23 USC) and federal regulations (23 CFR part 450).

II. STIP Contents:

6. General. The STIP is a biennial document adopted no later than April 1 of each even numbered year. Each STIP will cover a four year period and add two new years of programming capacity. Each new STIP will include projects carried forward from the previous STIP plus new projects and reserves from among those proposed by regional agencies in their regional transportation improvement programs (RTIPs) and by Caltrans in its interregional transportation improvement program (ITIP). State highway project costs in the STIP will include all Caltrans project support costs and all project listings will specify costs for each of the following four components: (1) completion of all permits and environmental studies; (2) preparation of plans, specifications, and estimates; (3) right-of-way acquisition; and (4) construction and construction management and engineering, including surveys and inspection. (See sections 41 and 44 of these guidelines for guidance on the display of project components and their costs.)

The 1998 STIP is a transition STIP, covering the 6-year period from FY 1998-99 through FY 2003-04. The 2000 STIP will cover the 4-year period from FY 2000-01 through FY 2003-04. Later biennial STIPs will cover 4-year periods, each adding two new years of programming.

7. County and Interregional Shares. The STIP consists of two broad programs, the regional program funded from 75% of new STIP funding and the interregional program funded from 25% of new STIP funding. The 75% regional program is further subdivided by formula into county shares. County shares are available solely for projects nominated by regions in their RTIPs. The Caltrans ITIP will nominate only projects for the interregional program. Under restricted circumstances, an RTIP may also recommend a project for funding from the interregional share (see section 32 of these guidelines).

The 1998 STIP period constitutes a single county share period ending FY 2003 -04; later county share periods will be 4 -year periods, beginning with the period ending FY 2007-08. Both surpluses and deficits of county shares and interregional shares will carry forward from one period to the next. The Commission will program each new project, including Caltrans support costs, either from a county share or from the interregional share. (See sections 47 –52 of these guidelines for the method of counting cost changes after initial programming.)

8. Joint Funding from Regional and Interregional Shares. If Caltrans and a regional agency agree, they may recommend that a new project or a project cost increase be jointly funded from county and interregional shares. In that case, the region will nominate the county share in the RTIP and Caltrans will nominate the interregional share in the ITIP.

9. Prior Year Projects. The STIP shall include projects from the prior STIP that are expected to be advertised prior to July 1 of the year of adoption, but for which the Commission has not yet allocated funds.
10. 1996 STIP Projects. All 1996 STIP project costs will be funded off the top prior to the division of new funds between the regional and interregional programs. This grandfathered funding will include Caltrans support costs, and the project cost display for 1996 STIP projects will conform to the same standards used for new STIP projects. Any cost changes to 1996 STIP projects will be drawn from or credited to county and interregional shares the same as if they were cost changes to new STIP projects. Except where there is a proposal for jointly funding a cost increase from county and interregional shares, cost changes that Caltrans requests for projects originally programmed under the former intercity rail, interregional road system, or retrofit soundwall programs or for NAFTA projects programmed in the 1996 STIP will be drawn from or credited to the new interregional share. All other cost changes will be drawn from or credited to the appropriate regional share.
11. Transportation Management System Improvements. The Commission supports implementation and application of transportation management systems (TMS) improvements to address highway congestion and to manage transportation systems. Under current statutes Caltrans is owner operator of the state highway system and is responsible for overall management of the state highway system. The regional transportation agencies are responsible for planning and programming transportation strategies, facilities and improvements which address regional transportation issues and system wide congestion. The Commission encourages the regions and Caltrans to work cooperatively together to plan, program, implement, operate and manage transportation facilities as an integrated system with the objective of maximizing available transportation resources and overall transportation systems performance.

Considering this objective and the respective responsibilities of Caltrans and the regional agencies, it is the Commission's policy that TMS improvements for state highways may be programmed in the State Highway Operations and Protection Program (SHOPP) by Caltrans in consultation with regional agencies if such improvements are part of a region's adopted strategy for addressing system wide congestion. The regions are encouraged to program TMS improvements in their RTIP for STIP programming if timely programming through the SHOPP isn't possible because of funding limitations in the SHOPP. TMS improvements include the following types of projects:

- Transportation Management Centers (TMCs) including necessary computer software and hardware.
- TMC interconnect projects which allow a TMC to substitute for another TMC during an emergency.
- TMC field elements such as, but not limited to, traffic sensors, message signs, cameras and ramp meters which upgrade the existing facilities and are necessary to facilitate the operation of the TMC.

The application of TMS improvements should be coordinated with other operational improvements such as freeway ramp/local street access modifications and auxiliary lanes in order to maximize the TMS benefits. Prior to programming a new highway facility for construction, reconstruction or rehabilitation in the STIP or in the SHOPP, regions and Caltrans should fully consider transportation systems management plans and needs and include any necessary TMC field elements to support operation of existing or planned TMCs.

12. Capacity Increasing Highway Operational Improvements. State highway operational improvements which expand the design capacity of the system such as those listed below are not eligible for the SHOPP. To the extent such projects address regional issues, the regional agency is responsible for nominating them for STIP programming through the RTIP process. To the extent such projects address interregional issues, Caltrans is responsible for nominating them for STIP programming through the ITIP process.
 1. High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes and HOV interchanges.
 2. Interchange design modifications and upgrades to accommodate traffic volumes that are significantly larger than the existing facility was designed for.
 3. Truck or slow vehicle lanes on freeways of six or more mixed flow lanes.
13. Non-Capacity Increasing highway Operational Improvements. State highway operational improvements which do not expand the design capacity of the system and which are intended to address spot congestion and are not directly related to TMCs or TMC field elements are eligible for the SHOPP. Regions may nominate these types of projects for STIP programming through the RTIP process if timely implementation through the SHOPP is not possible. Examples of such projects include:
 1. Auxiliary lanes for merging or weaving between adjacent interchanges.
 2. Intersection modifications including traffic signals.
 3. Slow vehicle lanes on conventional highways and four lane freeways.
 4. Curve and vertical alignment corrections.
 5. Two-way left turn lanes.
 6. Channelization.
 7. Turnouts.
 8. Chain control and truck brake inspection sites.
 9. Shoulder widening.

III. STIP Requirements for All Projects:

14. Project Study Reports A new project may not be included in either an RTIP or the ITIP without a complete project study report (PSR) or, for a project that is not on a State highway, a PSR equivalent. This requirement applies to the programming of project development components as well as to right-of-way and construction. This requirement does not apply to the programming of project planning, programming, and monitoring or to the STIP match of RSTP/CMAQ funds. A PSR is a report that meets the standards of the Commission's PSR guidelines. For Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA) projects, an application prepared in accordance with the Commission's TEA program guidelines is a PSR equivalent. For a transit project, the Commission's Uniform Transit Application is a PSR equivalent. A project study report equivalent will, at a minimum, be adequate to define and justify the project scope, cost and schedule to the satisfaction of the regional agency. Though a PSR or equivalent may focus on the project components proposed for programming, it must provide at least a preliminary estimate of costs for all components. The PSR, or PSR equivalent, need not be submitted with the RTIP or ITIP. However, the Commission or its staff may request copies of a project's report to document the project's cost or deliverability.
15. Full and Partial Funding. Project components may be programmed sequentially. That is, a project may be programmed for project development without being programmed for right-of-way or construction. A project may be programmed for right-of-way without being programmed for construction. However, the Commission will program a project component only if it finds that the component itself is fully funded, either from STIP funds or from other committed funds.

Before proposing to program a project's components sequentially, Caltrans or the regional agency should demonstrate the means by which it intends to fund the construction of a useable segment, consistent with the regional transportation plan or the Caltrans interregional transportation strategic plan.

All regional agencies with rail transit projects shall submit full funding plans describing each overall project and/or useable project segment. Each plan shall list Federal, State, and local funding categories by fiscal year over the time-frame that funding is sought, including funding for initial operating costs. Moreover, should the project schedule exceed the funding horizon, then the amount needed beyond what is currently requested shall be indicated. This information may be incorporated in the project fact sheets (see section 39 of these guidelines).

The Commission will regard non-STIP funds as committed when the agency with discretionary authority over the funds has made its commitment to the project by ordinance or resolution. For Federal formula funds, including RSTP, CMAQ, and Federal formula transit funds, the commitment may be by Federal TIP adoption. For Federal discretionary funds, the commitment may be by Federal approval of a full funding grant agreement or by grant approval.

16. Completion of environmental process. The Commission may program funding for project right-of-way or construction only if it finds that the sponsoring agency will complete the environmental process and can proceed with right-of-way acquisition or construction within the four-year period of the STIP. In compliance with Section 21150 of the Public Resources Code, the Commission may not allocate funds to local agencies for design, right-of-way, or construction prior to documentation of environmental clearance under the California Environmental Quality Act.
17. Caltrans/Regional Consultations. Caltrans and regional agencies shall consult with each other in the development of the ITIP and the RTIPs. As a part of this consultation, Caltrans will advise regional agencies, as far in advance as is practicable, of projects that may be or are likely to be included in the ITIP, including the potential for joint funding from county and interregional shares, and will seek the advice of the regional agencies regarding these projects. The consultation should allow regional agencies to consider and to advise Caltrans regarding the potential impact of the ITIP on the programming of projects in the RTIP. The Commission encourages Caltrans to assist the regional agencies that are responsible for preparing a Federal TIP by identifying projects that may be included in the ITIP, recognizing that Federal regulations generally require that a project in a county with an urbanized area be included in the Federal TIP in order to qualify for Federal funding.

As part of this consultation, each regional agency should seek and consider the advice of Caltrans regarding potential regional program funding for State highway and intercity rail projects and should advise Caltrans, as far in advance as is practicable, of staff recommendations or other indications of projects that may be or are likely to be included in the RTIP. The consultation should allow Caltrans to consider and advise the regional agency regarding the potential impact of the RTIP on the programming of projects in the ITIP. Where the regional agency prepares a Federal TIP, the consultation should provide for the timely inclusion of State highway projects in the Federal TIP.

Nothing in this section is meant to require that Caltrans or a regional agency make final commitments regarding the inclusion of particular projects in the ITIP or RTIP in advance of the December 15 deadline for submission.

18. Minor projects. There is no minimum size for a STIP project. The minor reserve in the Caltrans State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) is for SHOPP projects only. The Commission will not allocate funds from the SHOPP minor program for capacity-increasing projects, including bicycle and pedestrian facilities, soundwalls, and enhancements and mitigation for STIP projects.

19. Criteria For Measuring Performance And Cost-Effectiveness. In order to maximize the state's investments in transportation infrastructure, it is the Commission's policy that each RTIP and the ITIP will be evaluated, as they are developed, for performance and cost-effectiveness at the system or project level as appropriate. For large projects for which major investment studies are undertaken, a project level evaluation is preferable. The evaluation should be done by each region and by Caltrans before the RTIPs and the ITIP are submitted to the Commission for incorporation into the STIP. Beginning with the 2002 STIP cycle, each RTIP and the ITIP submitted to the Commission will be accompanied by a report on its performance and cost-effectiveness. Ideally, as performance measurement concepts and techniques mature, regional agencies and Caltrans will, as part of the transportation planning and programming process, monitor transportation systems and projects for performance and refine performance forecasts for use in evaluation of future RTIPs and ITIPs.

The Commission will consider the evaluations submitted by regions when making decisions on RTIPs as described in Section 54 of these guidelines. The Commission will consider evaluation submitted by Caltrans when making decisions on the ITIP as described in Section 56 of these guidelines.

The evaluation report should clearly demonstrate how effective the RTIP or the ITIP is in addressing or achieving the goals, objectives and standards which are established as part of the respective regional transportation plan (RTP) or Caltrans' Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan (ITSP). The purpose of the evaluation report is to assess the performance and cost effectiveness of each RTIP and the ITIP based on its own merits, not to attempt a comparative assessment between individual RTIPs or RTPs and the ITIP. RTIP evaluations should also address how the RTIP relates to the ITSP at key points of interregional system connectivity. Caltrans' evaluation of the ITIP should address ITIP consistency with the RTPs. Each region is responsible for establishing the transportation goals, objectives and standards to be used in its evaluation of RTIP performance. However, the Commission urges each region to consider including improvements to mobility, accessibility, reliability, sustainability and safety as part of the fundamental goals of any long-range transportation plan.

Regions and Caltrans are responsible for determining the techniques and methodology to be used in evaluating the performance and cost-effectiveness of RTIPs and the ITIP. The Commission recognizes that many measures of performance and benefit are difficult to evaluate and may be more subjective rather than measurable in quantifiable units. In order to facilitate statewide consistency, regions and Caltrans, should also consider using (when appropriate) values of performance and benefits and evaluation methodologies which are commonly accepted and which represent accepted or standard practice. The Commission encourages regions to consider using (when appropriate) values of time, safety, vehicle operation costs and discount rates which are developed by Caltrans for benefit cost analysis of transportation projects. The Commission does expect that evaluations of performance and cost-effectiveness will be for a 20-year period or on a life cycle basis. Reports to the Commission on evaluations of performance and cost effectiveness should be presented in a format which is disaggregated to the level of the benefits and measures used.

In establishing the following criteria the Commission recognizes that it may be difficult to develop and utilize criteria that is relevant in both urban and non-urban regions and that different criteria may apply depending on the complexity of the region and its RTP and RTIP. To this end, each region should select and utilize criteria most applicable to its own jurisdiction .

Regions and Caltrans should consider the following criteria for measuring performance of RTIPs and the ITIP:

1. Change in vehicle occupant, freight and goods travel time or delay.
2. Change in accidents and fatalities.
3. Change in vehicle and system operating costs
4. Change in access to jobs, markets and commerce.
5. Change in frequency and reliability of rail/transit service.
6. Change in air pollution emissions.
7. Change in passenger, freight and goods miles carried .

Regions and Caltrans should consider the following criteria for measuring cost- effectiveness of RTIPs and the ITIP:

1. Decrease in vehicle occupant travel, freight and goods time per thousand dollar invested.
2. Decrease in accidents and fatalities per thousand dollar invested.
3. Decrease in vehicle and system operating cost per thousand dollar invested.
4. Improved access to jobs, markets and commerce per thousand dollar invested.
5. Increased frequency reliability of rail/transit service per thousand dollar invested.
6. Decrease in air pollution emissions per thousand dollar invested.
7. Increase in annual passenger, freight and goods miles carried per thousand dollar invested.

IV. Regional Improvement Program:

20. Submittal of RTIPs. After consulting with Caltrans, each regional agency shall adopt and submit its RTIP to the Commission and to Caltrans no later than December 15 of each odd-numbered year. The RTIP will include and separately identify:
 - (a) Programming proposals from the county share(s) for the four-year STIP period. These proposals may include new projects, changes to prior STIP projects, and program reserves.
 - (b) Any request to advance a future county share for a larger project (permitted only in regions under 1 million population).
 - (c) Any project recommendations for the interregional share.
21. Project Planning and Programming. The RTIP may propose to program up to 2 percent of the county share for project planning, programming and monitoring by the transportation planning agency or, within the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) area, by a county transportation commission. If a regional agency receives Federal metropolitan planning funds, however, the RTIP may program no more than ½% of the county share for that agency. If the RTIP proposes programming funds for both SCAG and a county transportation commission, the total will not exceed 2 percent of the county share.

Funds programmed for this purpose should be spread across the years of the STIP. When allocated by the Commission, the funds will be available to cover costs of:

- Regional transportation planning, including the development and preparation of the regional transportation plan.
- Project planning, including the development of project study reports or major investment studies, conducted by regional agencies or by local agencies in cooperation with regional agencies.
- Program development, including the preparation of RTIPs and studies supporting them.
- Monitoring the implementation of STIP projects, including project delivery, timely use of funds, and compliance with State law and the Commission's guidelines.

Caltrans expenses for these purposes are included in the Department's annual budget and will not be funded through the STIP.

22. TEA Restriction on County Shares. With the exception of TEA projects grandfathered from the 1996 STIP, the Commission does not intend to program TEA projects into the STIP. In accordance with Commission action in September and October 1998, TEA projects will be funded either through the Caltrans local assistance program, the State Highway Operations & Protection Program (SHOPP) or the state Environmental Enhancement & Mitigation (EEM) program as appropriate. Funding for TEA projects not included in the STIP will not be counted as part of the county share.
23. Advances and Reserves of County Shares. A region with a population of less than 1 million may, in its RTIP, ask the Commission to advance an amount beyond its county share for a larger project. The requested advance may not exceed 200 percent of the county share identified in the Fund Estimate. The RTIP will separately identify the project or project components it proposes to program with the advance, following the same display format used for other RTIP projects.

Any region may, in its RTIP, ask to leave all or part of its county share unprogrammed, thus reserving that amount to build up a larger share for a higher cost project or otherwise to program projects in the county at a later time. Upon Commission adoption of these guidelines, all short-term reserves programmed in the 1998 STIP will be recognized and managed as unprogrammed shares. The Commission may use funds freed up by these reserves to advance county shares in other counties. The Commission, with the consent of Caltrans, may also consider advancing county shares by reserving a portion of the interregional share until the next county share period.

24. RSTP/CMAQ Match Reserve. A region may, in its RTIP, propose a reserve from its county share for each year of the STIP to match Regional Surface Transportation Program and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program (RSTP/CMAQ) funds, as authorized by Streets and Highways Code Section 188.5(e). The Commission may allocate (or may authorize Caltrans to allocate) funds from this reserve, at the request of the region, to eligible RSTP and CMAQ projects without further Commission action to amend the STIP to identify the individual projects. STIP funds programmed and allocated to match RSTP and CMAQ funds are available for any purpose permissible under the Federal STP and CMAQ programs and under Article XIX of the California Constitution. Because a region's RSTP/CMAQ reserve precludes the programming of the funds elsewhere, the Commission will apply the timely use of funds rule (see section 59 of these guidelines) to the RSTP/CMAQ reserve as if it were a programmed project.
25. Regional Improvement Program Project Eligibility. Except for project planning, programming, and monitoring, all STIP projects will be capital projects (including project development costs) needed to improve transportation in the region. These projects generally may include, but are not limited to, improving State highways, local roads, public transit (including buses), intercity rail, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, grade separations, transportation system management, transportation demand management, soundwalls, intermodal facilities, and safety. Non-capital costs for transportation system management or transportation demand management may be included where the regional agency finds the project to be a cost-effective substitute for capital expenditures. Other non-capital projects (e.g. road and transit maintenance) are not eligible.

In addition to meeting general program standards, all STIP projects must meet eligibility requirements specific to the STIP's funding sources. Unless the fund estimate specifies otherwise, the Commission expects all projects in the STIP to be funded from the State Highway Account (SHA), which includes both State revenues and Federal revenues.

Except for project planning, programming and monitoring, regional program STIP nominations will be consistent with the following statutory sequence of priorities for programming from the State Highway Account:

- Safety improvements on transportation facilities other than State highways where physical changes, other than adding new capacity, would reduce fatalities and the number and severity of injuries. (Safety projects on State highways are programmed in the SHOPP.)
- Transportation capital improvements that expand capacity or reduce congestion, or do both. These improvements may include the reconstruction of local roads and transit facilities and non-capital expenditures for transportation systems management and transportation demand management projects that are a cost-effective substitute for capital expenditures.
- Environmental enhancement and mitigation, including TEA projects and soundwall projects.

Article XIX of the California Constitution permits the use of State revenues in the SHA only for State highways, local roads, and guideway fixed facilities. This means, for example, that rail rolling stock and buses may be funded only from the Federal revenues in the SHA. For such projects, the non-Federal match (generally a minimum of 11½%) will have to be provided from a non-STIP source.

It is the continuing intent of the Commission that rehabilitation projects, excluding maintenance, on the local streets and roads system remain eligible for funding in the STIP.

For the 1998 STIP, the added increment of STIP programming capacity resulting from the amendment of the 1998 STIP Fund Estimate shall also be available to fund repair of storm damage on local streets and roads resulting from storms occurring in the winter of 1997/1998. Repair of storm damage in declared disaster areas should be considered for STIP funding only to the extent that such damage can't be funded with Federal Emergency Relief (ER) funds or Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) funds.

Proposed projects on local highways functionally classified as local or as rural minor collector (non federal-aid eligible) are also eligible for STIP funding. However, programming of projects on non federal-aid eligible routes shall be limited to availability of state only funding as determined by the Commission.

Each region, in consultation with its cities and counties, shall prepare and submit to the Commission by January 8, 1999 an inventory of remaining storm damage projects to be funded. The inventory of storm damage repair projects remaining to be funded should include the type, location, estimated cost and program year for each project as well as the lead agency for the project. The inventory shall serve as the basis for preparation and submittal of regional proposals to amend storm damage repair projects into the 1998 STIP. At the written request of a region, the Executive Director of the Commission may extend the January 8, 1999 submittal date for that region.

The Commission's intention in allowing eligibility for programming repair of storm damage on local systems as part of the 1998 fund estimate and STIP amendment was to quickly fund immediate needs for storm damage repair by supplementing, rather than replacing, existing levels of funding for such projects. With this in mind, STIP amendments for storm damage repair projects will be accepted for notice until December 1, 1999. These projects should be scheduled and programmed so that Commission allocations for capital funding occur no later than June, 2000.

26. Federalizing Transit Projects. In accordance with Federal statutes and regulations, federal highway funds programmed for transit projects must be transferred from the Federal Highway Administration to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for administration when the project or project component is ready to be implemented. In order to facilitate the transfer and timely use of funds, the Commission encourages the implementing agency or fund applicant to submit grant applications to FTA requesting a grant number and tentative approval of project eligibility prior to requesting Commission allocation of funds.

There are four types of transit grants available from FTA which are described in Title 53 USC sections 5307, 5310, 5311 and 5336. For projects in urbanized areas of greater than 200,000 population, the local agency submits the grant application directly to FTA. For projects in urbanized areas of less than 200,000 population, the local agency submits the grant application through Caltrans to FTA. For projects in areas outside of urbanized areas, Caltrans acts as the grant applicant for the local agency and reimburses the local agency which is implementing the project. Grants for projects in urbanized areas must be submitted by agencies which have been certified by FTA. Grants for projects in urbanized areas are processed by FTA on a quarterly basis. Grants for projects not in urbanized areas are processed by FTA on an annual basis.

Transit related projects such as parking structures and multi-modal stations should also be transferred to FTA for administration. However, on an exception basis, FHWA will administer the funds and a grant application and fund transfer will not be necessary. Proposed exceptions should be discussed and agreed to with Caltrans and FHWA prior to programming the project in the STIP and documented in the PSR equivalent and project fact sheet.

27. Increased STIP Funding Participation. An RTIP may propose, from the county share, to increase a project's STIP funding to replace local funding already committed, provided that the local funding has not been and will not be expended or encumbered under contract prior to the Commission's allocation of STIP funds. The proposal will include the revised basis for cost sharing, as specified in section 43 of these guidelines.

In those instances when any regional agency seeks additional STIP funding for a previously programmed project and the projected funding increase exceeds any increase in the estimated cost of that project, the board of such regional agency, by resolution of a majority of board members, shall declare in writing that the increase in the STIP funding is not for the purpose of "back-filling" other non-STIP funds previously committed to the capital project which have already been, or in the future will be, redirected to non-capital activities and purposes.

28. Pooling of County Shares. Two or more regional agencies may agree to consolidate their county shares for two consecutive county share periods into a single county share for both periods. A pooling agreement will become effective for a county share period if each regional agency adopts a resolution incorporating the agreement and submits it to the Commission with its RTIP. Similarly, SACOG may pool the shares of any counties in its region by adopting a resolution and submitting it with its RTIP.

As an alternative to pooling, two regional agencies may agree to accomplish the same purpose by agreeing to a loan of a specified dollar amount from one region's county share to the other during a STIP period, with the loaned amount to be returned in the following county share period. A regional agency, in its RTIP, may also propose to contribute all or a portion of its current county share for the programming of a project located in another county.

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) may pool its county shares for a STIP period by adopting a resolution and submitting it with its RTIP, that the amount of any county share advanced or reserved is not more than 15 percent of the county share identified in the Fund Estimate.

29. Consistency With CMP. Congestion Management Programs (CMPs) prepared by counties not electing to be exempted from CMP requirements pursuant to Section 65088.3 of the Government Code shall be incorporated into the appropriate RTIP prior to its adoption and submittal to the Commission. Projects included in the adopted RTIP shall be consistent with the capital improvement program of the CMP. Projects not in the approved CMP shall not be included in the RTIP unless listed separately .

V. Interregional Improvement Program:

30. General. The interregional improvement program consists of STIP projects funded from the interregional program share, which is 25% of new STIP funding. Caltrans will nominate a program of projects for the interregional share in its interregional transportation improvement program (ITIP). The interregional program has two parts:
- (a) The first, funded from up to 10% of new STIP funding, is nominated solely by Caltrans in the ITIP. It is subject to the north/south 40%/60% split and otherwise may include projects anywhere in the State. The projects may include State highway, intercity passenger rail, mass transit guideway, or grade separation projects. Non-capital costs for transportation system management or transportation demand management may be included where Caltrans finds the project to be a cost-effective substitute for capital expenditures.
 - (b) The second part, funded from at least 15% of new STIP funding, is not subject to the north/south split. It is limited to intercity rail projects (including interregional commuter rail and grade separation projects) and to improvements outside urbanized areas on interregional road system routes (which are specified in statute). At least 15% of the 15% (or at least 2.25% of new STIP funding) must be programmed for intercity rail projects, including interregional commuter rail and grade separation projects.

Under restricted circumstances, an RTIP may also recommend a project for funding from the second part, described in paragraph (b). See section 32 of these guidelines.

31. Submittal of Caltrans ITIP. After consulting with regional agencies and other local transportation authorities, Caltrans shall submit its ITIP to the Commission no later than December 15 of each odd numbered year. At the same time, Caltrans will transmit a copy of the ITIP to each regional agency. The ITIP will include programming proposals from the interregional share for the four-year STIP period. These proposals may include new projects, program reserves, changes to prior STIP interregional program projects, and the interregional share of proposals for jointly funding new projects or cost increases from county and interregional shares.

The ITIP should include, for each proposed project, information (including assumptions and calculations) to support an objective analysis of interregional program priorities. That information, which should be based on the project study report, should include:

- an estimate of total project costs, including mitigation costs and support costs;
- an estimate of the time of completion of project construction;
- an estimate of annual project benefits (at project opening) due to vehicle time savings and vehicle operating costs;
- for road projects, an estimate of annual project benefits (at project opening) due to reductions in fatalities and injuries;
- for rail projects, an estimate of the project's impact on ridership and the need for operating subsidies; and
- a description of how the project would implement the interregional strategic plan, including a description of its impact on California's economic growth and the interregional distribution of goods.

32. Regional Recommendations for the Interregional Program. A regional agency may, in its RTIP, recommend improvements outside urbanized areas on interregional road system routes for funding from the interregional share. Interregional road system routes are defined in statute at Streets and Highways Code Sections 164.10 to 164.20, inclusive. By statute, the Commission may program a regional recommendation for the interregional program only if the Commission "makes a finding, based on an objective analysis, that the recommended project is more cost-effective than a project submitted by [Caltrans]." The Commission cautions regions, especially those with priority needs in both urbanized and nonurbanized areas, that nonurbanized area projects of highest regional priority should be proposed in the RTIP from the county share. The interregional program is not a nonurbanized area program, and the Commission does not intend to use the interregional program to meet most State highway needs in nonurbanized areas. The Commission anticipates programming regional recommendations for funding from the interregional program only when a recommended project constitutes a cost-effective means of implementing the interregional transportation strategic plan (see section 34 of these guidelines).

Any regional recommendation for the interregional program shall be made in the RTIP and shall be separate and distinct from the RTIP proposal for programming from the county share(s). Each project nominated in this way must constitute a useable segment of highway. The nomination must be to fund the project fully through the interregional program. The nomination may not be part of a proposal for joint funding between the regional and interregional programs. Joint funding proposals may be made only in concert with Caltrans, with the region proposing the county share in its RTIP and Caltrans proposing the interregional share in the ITIP.

An RTIP proposal for interregional funding should be accompanied by information (including assumptions and calculations) to support the objective analysis that the Commission must make before it can program the project. That information, which should be based on the project study report, should include:

- an estimate of total project costs, including mitigation costs and support costs;
- an estimate of the time of completion of project construction;
- an estimate of annual project benefits (at project opening) due to vehicle time savings and vehicle operating costs;
- an estimate of annual project benefits (at project opening) due to reductions in fatalities and injuries; and
- a description of how the project would implement the interregional strategic plan, including a description of its impact on California's economic growth and the interregional distribution of goods.

33. Regional Transportation Plan. Projects included in the interregional program shall be consistent with the relevant adopted regional transportation plan(s).

34. Interregional Program Objectives. The Commission envisions an interregional improvement program that works toward achievement of the following six objectives:

- Completing a trunk system of higher standard State highways (usually expressways and freeways).
- Connecting all urbanized areas, major metropolitan centers, and gateways to the freeway and expressway system to ensure a complete statewide system for the highest volume and most critical trip movements.
- Ensuring a dependable level of service for movement into and through major gateways of statewide significance and ensuring connectivity to key intermodal transfer facilities, seaports, air cargo terminals, and freight distribution facilities.
- Connecting urbanizing centers and high growth areas to the trunk system to ensure future connectivity, mobility, and access for the State's expanding population.
- Linking rural and smaller urban centers to the trunk system.
- Implementing an intercity passenger rail program (including interregional commuter rail) that complies with Federal and State laws, improves service reliability, decreases running times, and reduces the per-passenger operating subsidy.

The Caltrans ITIP should be based on a Strategic Plan for implementing the interregional program. The Strategic Plan should address development of both the interregional road system and intercity rail in California, and it should define a strategy that extends beyond the STIP. The ITIP should describe how proposed projects relate to the Strategic Plan and how the Strategic Plan would implement the Commission's objectives. The Commission will evaluate the ITIP and any regional recommendations for the interregional program in the light of these objectives and the Strategic Plan.

The interregional improvement program will include both State highway and rail projects (potentially including mass transit guideway and grade separation projects).

For State highways, the interregional program should emphasize the development of a basic trunk system (a subset of the larger interregional road system described in statute, with extensions in urbanized areas) that provides:

- access to and through or around California's urbanized areas (over 50,000 population) and the following areas that serve as major economic centers for multicounty areas: Eureka, Susanville, and Bishop; and
- access to California's major interstate and international gateways, including interstate and international border crossings, international airports, and seaports.

The Strategic Plan should identify this basic trunk system, with a primary focus on access between these areas and gateways, not on distribution within regions or on access to all counties. The focus should be on interregional commerce rather than on interregional commuting. While the interregional program may include projects on other interregional routes, the Commission expects the development of the basic trunk system to be the focus of near term investment.

The Commission expects the identification and selection of State highway projects for the interregional program to be based on consideration of cost in relationship to the following benefits, with higher priority given to projects with greater net benefit for the investment made:

- traffic safety, including the potential for reducing fatalities and injuries;
- reduced travel time and vehicle operating costs for interregional travel;
- economic benefits to California of expanding interregional commerce through faster and more reliable access between markets; and
- economic benefits to California of expanding interstate and international trade and commerce through faster and more reliable access to California's international airports and seaports.

Commerce includes the movement of people and goods for any economic purpose. It may include extractive industries (such as mining, agriculture, or timber) or recreation.

A large part of California's interregional road system is adequately developed for the near future, and the SHOPP provides for the protection and preservation of the existing system. The Commission therefore expects that the interregional program will be focused on underdeveloped gaps and corridors in the basic trunk system. There is no expectation that STIP interregional improvements will be evenly spread across the State, and the spreading of funding among regions is not a Commission objective for the interregional program. The Commission does encourage Caltrans and smaller regions (generally with populations less than 250,000) to consider and seek formation of partnerships to jointly fund projects on the interregional road system for the mutual benefit of the region and the state.

For rail, the interregional program should emphasize:

- the preservation and improvement of the existing system of State-sponsored intercity passenger rail routes, including compliance with safety and accessibility standards and protection of the State's investment in equipment;
- the reduction of the system's dependence on State operating subsidies;
- the improvement of other passenger rail access between major urban centers, airports and intercity rail routes; and
- the use of rail grade separations to improve service reliability for both intercity passenger rail and interregional goods movement.

The Commission expects the identification and selection of rail capital projects for the interregional program (including interregional commuter rail and grade separations) to be based on consideration of cost in relationship to the following benefits, with higher priority given to projects with greater net benefit for the investment made:

- reduced intercity rail running times and operating costs (which may increase demand and reduce the need for operating subsidies);
- improved intercity rail schedule frequency and reliability (which may increase demand and reduce the need for operating subsidies); and
- economic benefits to California of promoting trade and commerce by creating faster and more reliable highway or rail access to markets, including access to California's international airports and seaports;

For either highways or rail, Caltrans and the Commission may evaluate a project as part of a series of related projects in the same location or corridor. The evaluation may consider the costs and benefits of the projects as a group. All projects in the group should be part of the Strategic Plan for near term funding, whether or not proposed for the STIP.

Where a potential interregional program project may provide substantial local benefits, it is appropriate that costs be divided between the regional and interregional programs. In this case, the evaluation of the project for the interregional program should be based on the interregional program cost share in relationship to the benefits described in this section.

35. TEA restriction on interregional share.

With the exception of TEA projects grandfathered into the 1998 STIP from the 1996 STIP, the Commission does not intend to program TEA projects into the STIP. In accordance with Commission action in September and October 1998, TEA projects will be funded either through the Caltrans local assistance program, the State Highway Operations & Protection Program (SHOPP) or the state Environmental Enhancement & Mitigation (EEM) program as appropriate. Funding for TEA projects not included in the STIP will not be counted as part of the interregional share.

36. Projects and Reserves. The ITIP should include a complete proposal for the programming of the STIP interregional share which complies with the various statutory restrictions, including : the two parts described in section 30 of these guidelines (the 10% and 15% parts), the north/south split of the first part, and the 2.25% intercity rail minimum of the second part. Any portion of the interregional share that is not proposed for a specific project may be proposed as a reserve for future programming. This may include reserves of any kind, including a proposal to reserve a portion of the interregional share for the next share period in order to free up funding for county share advances.

VI. Display of project descriptions and costs:

37. Project Description. The STIP will include the following information for each project, which should be included in the RTIP or ITIP proposing the project:
- (a) The name of the agency responsible for project implementation.
 - (b) The project title, which should include a brief nontechnical description of the project location and limits (community name, street name, etc.), and a phrase describing the type and scope of the project.
 - (c) A unique project identification number provided by Caltrans.
 - (d) For projects on the State highway system, the route number and post-mile (or post-kilometer) limits.
 - (e) Any appropriate funding restriction or designation, including projects requiring Federal funds through the State Highway Account.
 - (f) The source and amounts of local or other non-STIP funds, if any, committed to the project.
38. State-only Funding. The Commission will assume that all projects will be qualified for Federal transportation funding unless the RTIP or ITIP designates otherwise. Whenever a region designates a project to be programmed for State-only (non-Federal) funding, the RTIP will explain the reason for this designation. The Commission will not program a State highway project for State-only funding without consulting with Caltrans. Projects programmed without state-only designation and later proposed for state-only funding allocations will be subject to Caltrans recommendation for exception to federal funding prior to Commission approval as described in section 58 of these guidelines.

39. Project Fact Sheets. For each project proposed for new STIP funding, the RTIP or ITIP will include a project fact sheet that includes the information displayed in the Appendix to these guidelines. All regional agencies proposing funding for rail transit projects, will include full funding plans with the RTIP, as described in section 15 of these guidelines. For transit projects to be funded in part from a Federal transit Administration (FTA) grant as described in section 26 of these guidelines, the project fact sheet should identify the type of grant, the name of the agency receiving the grant, and the proposed timing of the grant application.
40. STIP database. Caltrans is responsible for developing, upgrading and maintaining an electronic database record of the adopted STIP and Commission actions which amend the STIP. Caltrans will publish the STIP record within 75 days of the STIP adoption and make copies available to the Commission and to the regional agencies. To facilitate development, analysis and management of the STIP, Caltrans will provide the Commission and the regional agencies appropriate access to the STIP database as soon as possible. After a regional agency's access to the database is established, a regional agency will develop its RTIP submittals to the Commission utilizing the STIP database.
41. Cost Estimates for Project Components. For each project proposed for programming, the RTIP or ITIP shall list costs separately for each of the 4 project components: (1) environmental studies and permits; (2) preparation of plans, specifications, and estimates, (3) right-of-way, and (4) construction. For the right-of-way and construction components on Caltrans projects, the RTIP or ITIP shall list separate costs for Caltrans support and for capital outlay. For Caltrans projects, that brings the total to 6 project cost components.

For each project component, the amount programmed shall be escalated to the year proposed for programming, based on the current cost estimate updated as of November 1, of the year the RTIP or ITIP is submitted. The standard escalation rate for the STIP shall be that specified in the fund estimate for the STIP. Caltrans or a region may elect to use alternative escalation factors for right-of-way or other costs as it deems appropriate. STIP costs and non-STIP costs will be displayed separately. Where a project or project component will be funded from multiple county shares or jointly from the interregional share and a county share, the amounts programmed from the different shares will be displayed separately. Amounts programmed for any component shall be rounded to the nearest \$1000. For jointly funded projects, the county share or ITIP share contribution programmed for a component shall each be rounded to the nearest \$1000.

42. Authority and Responsibility. For projects on the State highway system, only cost estimates approved by the Caltrans Director or by a person authorized by the Director to approve cost estimates for programming will be used. For other projects, only cost estimates approved by the Chief Executive Officer or other authorized officer of the responsible local implementing agency will be used.
43. Basis for Cost Sharing. Where a project or project component is to be funded from both STIP and non-STIP sources, the STIP listing will indicate whether the programming commitment is for a particular dollar amount, a particular percentage of total project cost, or a particular element or item of work. Where a project or project component is to be jointly funded from the interregional share and a county share or funded from multiple county shares, the STIP listing will indicate the basis to be used for apportioning cost increases or decreases between the shares.

44. Program Year for Cost Components. The cost of each project cost component will be listed in the STIP no earlier than in the State fiscal year in which the particular project component can be delivered, as described below.
- (a) Project development. Costs for environmental studies and permits will be programmed in the fiscal year during which environmental studies will begin. Costs for the preparation of plans, specifications, and estimates will be programmed in the fiscal year during which this work will begin. For Caltrans support costs, each of these two project development components will be listed in one fiscal year, not necessarily the same fiscal year, regardless of the length of time over which the costs will be incurred. For local agency project development costs, each component may be listed in more than one fiscal year, where appropriate.
 - (b) Right-of-way. Right-of-way costs, including Caltrans support costs, will be programmed in the fiscal year or years during which right-of-way acquisition (including utility relocation) contracts may be executed. These costs may be listed for a single project in more than one fiscal year, where appropriate.
 - (c) Construction. Construction costs, including Caltrans construction support costs, will be programmed in the fiscal year during which construction contracts will be advertised. All construction costs that are included in or related to a single construction contract should be listed in one fiscal year, regardless of the length of time over which construction costs will be paid. Projects requiring separate construction contracts should be listed separately for the STIP, even if they are grouped for the purpose of share balance tabulations and adjustments, as described in section 52 of these guidelines.
45. Escalation adjustments. All projects will count against share balances on the basis of their fully escalated (inflated) costs. All project RTIP and ITIP nominations should therefore be at costs escalated to the year in which project delivery is proposed (see sections 41 and 44 of these guidelines). Commission staff may make further escalation adjustments, in consultation with Caltrans and regions, in making its staff recommendations and in developing the STIP (see section 57 of these guidelines). Ordinarily, the Commission will apply escalation adjustments only to Caltrans construction costs, not to right-of-way, project development, or local grant projects.
46. Prior Costs for 1996 STIP Projects. For every Caltrans project that will be carried forward to the 1998 STIP, Caltrans will identify the amount of its expenditures for right-of-way (including support) and for project development through the 1997-98 fiscal year. These amounts, when added to the amounts remaining and programmed for the 1998 STIP period, will form the project component base cost for the purpose of share balance tabulations and adjustments, as described in sections 47-52 of these guidelines.

VII. Share Balances and Adjustments:

47. Long-term balances. The Commission, with assistance from Caltrans and regional agencies, will maintain a long-term balance of county shares and the interregional share, as specified in Streets and Highways Code Section 188.10. The Commission will make its calculation of the cumulative share balances, as of the end of the preceding fiscal year, available for review by Caltrans and regional agencies by August 15, each year.
48. Local Grant Projects. For the purpose of share balances, the costs counted for local grant projects (all project work not implemented by Caltrans) will be the amounts actually allocated by the Commission. No adjustment will be made after the allocation vote for any amount not expended by the local agency. In order to provide a degree of flexibility to local agencies in administering projects, allocated funds may be shifted between project components to accommodate cost changes within the following limits:
- Funds may be shifted between the two project development components up to the amount of allocation for each component.
 - Funds may be shifted between project development, right of way and construction limited to within 20 percent of the amount programmed for each component or the amount allocated for each component if the amount allocated is less than the amount programmed.

Shifting of allocated funds between components will not impact county share balances. County share balances will be based on actual amounts allocated for each component. Where a programmed amount has not been voted, the programmed amount will be counted.

49. Construction. For the purpose of share balances, the costs counted for Caltrans construction projects are the engineer's final estimate presented to the Commission for allocation vote, including the construction support amount identified by Caltrans at the time of the vote. No adjustment will be made after the allocation vote for the award amount or for changes in expenditures except where the Commission votes a supplemental allocation during or following construction. No adjustment will be made for supplemental allocations made by Caltrans under the authority delegated by Commission Resolution G-12, except that when a Commission supplemental vote is larger than it otherwise would have been because of a prior G-12 rescission (negative G-12) made by Caltrans, the effect of the negative G-12 will be excluded when counting the Commission's supplemental vote for the purpose of share balances. Where a project has not been voted, the programmed amount will be counted.
50. Right-of-Way. For the purpose of share balances, the costs counted for right-of-way on Caltrans projects, including right-of-way support costs, are the amounts programmed for right-of-way in the STIP. No adjustment is made for actual right-of-way purchase costs or support expenditures. However, if the final right-of-way estimate, including support costs, is greater than 120 percent of the STIP amount, the costs counted will be adjusted to that final estimate. To encourage accurate estimates and minimize the manipulation of share balances, the Commission will consider STIP amendments for project right-of-way costs only in conjunction with the statewide review of right-of-way costs in the annual right-of-way plan.

51. Project Development. For the purpose of share balances, the costs counted for Caltrans project development are the amounts programmed for both environmental studies and permits and preparing plans, specifications, and estimates. No adjustment will be made for cost differences that are within 20 percent of the amount programmed for project development. To encourage accurate estimates and minimize the manipulation of share balances, the Commission will consider STIP amendments for project development only when the change in total project development costs is 20 percent or more or when changes in project development costs are the result of STIP amendments to change the scope of the project.
52. Corridor Projects. For the purpose of share balance tabulations and adjustments, groups of projects along a route or in a corridor area may be treated as a single project. A grouping of projects for this purpose should constitute a single major route segment or improvement. That means that, within each of the four defined project components, costs may be freely shifted among the individual projects in the group. This does not permit shifting costs between project development, right-of-way, and construction.
53. Federal Demonstration Projects. Federal funds designated for federal high priority (demonstration) projects that are not subject to federal obligation authority or are accompanied by their own obligation authority (such as those specified in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 and the 1998 Transportation Equity Act For The 21st Century) are not included in the Fund Estimate or programmed in the STIP. Such funds do not count against the county shares. Funding for demonstration projects is generally handled through the Caltrans Local Assistance Program. If the sponsor or implementor of the demonstration project seeks RTIP or ITIP funding to match the demonstration funds or to complete funding for the project, the project becomes a STIP project and the demonstration funds are treated as non-STIP funds.

If demonstration funds are available for projects programmed in the 1998 STIP, the demonstration funds may be used in one of three ways. If the STIP project is not fully funded, the demonstration funds may be used to help fully fund the project. If the project is fully funded, the demonstration funds may be used to increase the scope of the project or they may be used to supplant the state or local funds already committed to the STIP project. If committed funds are supplanted by demonstration funds the beneficiary of the tradeoff will be as follows : For projects funded with county share or local funds, the county share and or local fund will be credited with the benefit. For projects funded with interregional share funds, the interregional share will be credited with the benefit. For projects that are jointly funded, the interregional share, the county share and or the local fund will each be credited with the benefit in proportion to their respective funding commitments in the 1998 STIP project .

The Commission advises sponsors and implementers of demonstration projects that demonstration funds are limited in availability for each specified project to annual obligational authority and to annual allocation percentages specified in federal statutes. This means that the full amount of federal demonstration funds specified in federal statute may not be available for the project at the time of planned implementation. These limitations shall be taken into account when determining the amounts of demonstration funds available for the options described in the previous two paragraphs .

VIII. Commission Action and Adoption:

54. Incorporation or Rejection of RTIP. The Commission will include all RTIP projects nominated from the current county share in the STIP unless the Commission finds that (a) the RTIP is not consistent with these guidelines (b) there are insufficient funds to implement the RTIP, (c) there are conflicts with other RTIPs or with the ITIP, (d) a project is not in an approved CMP or is not included in a separate listing in the approved RTIP as provided by Government Code 65082 , or (e) that the RTIP is not a cost-effective expenditure of State funds. In making its finding the Commission will consider the cost-effectiveness evaluation of the RTIP submitted by the region as required in section 19 of these guidelines. The Commission may also make its own evaluation based on the criteria in section 19 of these guidelines . If the Commission makes one of those findings, it may reject the RTIP in its entirety. For the 6-county SCAG area, the Commission will incorporate or reject each county's RTIP separately. For MTC and SACOG, the Commission will incorporate or reject the multicounty RTIP in its entirety. For any counties that choose to pool county shares, the Commission will incorporate or reject the counties' RTIPs together.

If the Commission proposes to reject an RTIP, it will provide notice to the regional agency not later than 60 days after the date it receives the RTIP. The Commission's Executive Director may provide the notice by letter; the notice does not require formal Commission action. The notice will specify the factual basis for the proposed rejection. The Commission will act on the proposed rejection of an RTIP no later than the adoption of the STIP. No later than 60 days after the Commission rejects an RTIP, it will hold a public hearing on the RTIP in the affected region unless the regional agency proposes to waive the hearing and submit a new RTIP. Whenever the Commission rejects an RTIP, the regional agency may submit a new RTIP. Unless the new RTIP is rejected in the same manner, it will be incorporated into the STIP as a STIP amendment. This amendment will not require a separate 30-day public notice if the new RTIP is limited to projects considered in the STIP hearings or in a public hearing on the proposed RTIP rejection.

55. Commission Action on Advances and Reserves. If the Commission approves a region's request to advance an amount beyond its county share to program a larger project, the advance will be deducted from the county share for the following county share period. If the Commission does not approve the advance and does not program the project or project components that the RTIP proposed to program with the advance, the Commission will reserve any portion of the county share that is thereby left unprogrammed until the next county share period. This action will not require a rejection of the entire RTIP.

An RTIP request to reserve part or all of a county share until the next county share period will free up current period funding that the Commission may use to advance county shares in other counties. The Commission, with the consent of Caltrans, may also consider advancing county shares by reserving a portion of the interregional share until the next county share period.

56. Commission Action on Interregional Program. The Commission will program the interregional share of the STIP from projects nominated by Caltrans in its ITIP or alternative recommendations made by regions in their RTIPs. By statute, the Commission may program a regional recommendation for the interregional program only if the Commission “makes a finding, based on an objective analysis, that the recommended project is more cost-effective than a project submitted by [Caltrans].” The Commission may decline to program any project it finds inconsistent with these guidelines or not a cost-effective expenditure of State funds. In making its finding the Commission will consider the cost-effectiveness evaluation of the ITIP submitted by Caltrans as required in section 19 of these guidelines. The Commission may also make its own evaluation based on the criteria in section 19 of these guidelines. After a review of the nominated projects, the Commission may elect to leave a portion of the interregional share unprogrammed and reserved for later interregional programming or, with the consent of Caltrans, may reserve a portion of the interregional share for the next share period in order to free up funding for county share advances.
57. STIP Respreading of Projects. The Commission may program projects, project components and project reserves in fiscal years later than the fiscal years proposed in the RTIP or ITIP if the Commission finds it necessary to do so to insure the total amount programmed in each fiscal year of the STIP does not exceed the amount specified in the fund estimate as required by Section 14529(e) of the Government code. In that case, the Commission will compare all projects nominated for the year(s) from which projects will be postponed, giving consideration to the leveling of regional shares across the STIP period and, in consultation with Caltrans, to the need to balance Caltrans’ workload by district and fiscal year.

IX. STIP Management:

58. Allocation of Funds. The Commission will consider allocation of funds for a project or project component when it receives an allocation request and recommendation from Caltrans. All allocations will be made in units of \$1,000, and all allocation requests should therefore be rounded to the nearest \$1000. The request will include a determination of the availability of funding and a recommendation on the source of funding. The recommendation on the source of funding shall include the amounts by fund account i.e. State Highway Account or Public Transportation Account as well as the fund type within the account including type of federal funds. Caltrans’ recommendation to the Commission for state only funding of a project will be made in accordance with Caltrans current policy for exceptions to federal funding. The final determination of fund type available for a project will be made in the Commission’s allocation of funds to the project. The Commission will approve the allocation only if the funds are available and are necessary to implement the project as programmed in the STIP. Allocations for right of way acquisition or construction will be made only after documentation of the required environmental clearance for the project.

In compliance with Section 21150 of the Public Resources Code, the Commission may not allocate funds to local agencies for design, right-of-way, or construction prior to documentation of environmental clearance under the California Environmental Quality Act. All funds allocated are subject to the timely use of funds provision as described in Section 59 of these guidelines.

The Commission will consider making an allocation which exceeds the amount programmed in the STIP if a region or the interregional program has an adequate unprogrammed share balance or if the Commission finds it can approve an advance to the county share or to the interregional share. Unallocated amounts are available for allocation until the end of the fiscal year in which they are programmed in the STIP. Funds not allocated are subject to the timely use of funds provision described in Section 59 of these guidelines.

If a project or project component is ready for implementation earlier than the fiscal year that it is programmed in the STIP, the implementing agency may request an allocation in advance of the programmed year. The Commission will consider making advanced allocations based on making a finding that the allocation will not delay availability of funding for other projects programmed in earlier years than the project to be advanced and with the approval of the responsible regional agency if county share funds are to be advanced.

When a local agency or transit agency is ready to implement a project or project component, the agency will submit a request to Caltrans. Caltrans will review the request, prepare appropriate agreements with the agency and recommend the request to the Commission for action. The typical time required, after receipt of the application, to complete Caltrans review, and recommendation and Commission allocation is 60 days. The specific details and instructions for the allocation, transfer and liquidation of funds allocated to local agencies and transit agencies are included in the Procedures For Administering Local Grant Projects In The STIP prepared by Caltrans in consultation with the Commission, regional agencies, local agencies and transit agencies.

59. Timely Use of Funds. Funds that are programmed for all components of local grant projects or for Caltrans construction costs are available for allocation only until the end of the fiscal year identified in the STIP. Whenever programmed funds are not allocated within this deadline, the project programming will be deleted from the STIP. The Commission will not make the funds immediately available to the county share or interregional share for reprogramming. The Commission will, however, adjust the share balance to restore the funds in the next county share period.

Funds allocated for local project development or right of way costs must be expended by the end of the second fiscal year following the fiscal year in which the funds were allocated. For local grant projects, the local agency must invoice Caltrans for these costs no later than 180 days after the fiscal year in which the final expenditure occurred.

Funds allocated for construction or for purchase of equipment must be encumbered by the award of a contract within twelve months of the date of the allocation of funds. After the award of the contract, the local agency or Caltrans has up to 36 months to complete (accept) the contract. At the time of fund allocation the Commission may extend the deadline for completion of work and the liquidation of funds if necessary to accommodate the proposed expenditure plan for the project. For local grant projects, the local agency has 180 days after contract acceptance to make the final payment to the contractor or vendor, prepare the final Report of Expenditure and submit the final invoice to Caltrans for reimbursement.

Federal highway transportation funds programmed and allocated for transit projects are considered obligated and are deducted from the state's federal obligation authority balances as soon as they are transferred to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) as described in section 26 of these guidelines. Federal funds for such projects will be considered encumbered and expended upon completion of the fund transfer to FTA. State funds allocated to match the federal funds for such projects will be subject to the timely use of funds provisions described in this section. Upon completion of such projects, after notification by FTA of final project costs, the FHWA will adjust obligation records accordingly. Any federal funds which were transferred to FTA but not expended will be rescinded as state highway account revenue with no adjustment to county shares. Any state match funds which were allocated but not expended will also be rescinded with no adjustment to county shares.

The Commission may extend the deadlines for allocation of funds, for award of a contract, for transfers to FTA, for expenditures for project development or right of way, or for contract completion no more than one time and only if it finds that an unforeseen and extraordinary circumstance beyond the control of the responsible agency has occurred that justifies the extension. The extension will not exceed the period of delay directly attributed to the extraordinary circumstance and will in no event be for more than 20 months.

Whenever allocated funds are not encumbered by the award of a contract or transferred to FTA, or expended within the deadlines specified above, all unencumbered or unexpended funds from the allocation will be rescinded. The Commission will not adjust the county or interregional share for any unencumbered balance of the allocation.

Caltrans will provide monthly reports to the Commission on projects which have not been awarded or transferred to FTA within six months of the date of the Commission's allocation .

The Commission will apply these timely use of funds provisions to projects carried forward from the 1996 STIP as well as to new STIP projects. These provisions will not apply to Caltrans support costs, which the Commission does not allocate, or to Caltrans right-of-way costs, which the Commission allocates annually on a lump sum basis rather than by project.

The Commission will not amend the STIP to delete or change the program year of the funding for any project component programmed in the current fiscal year or earlier. Where a project or project component will not be ready for allocation as programmed in the current fiscal year, the agency responsible for the project should request an extension of the allocation deadline rather than a STIP amendment.

60. Delivery Deadline Extensions. The Commission may extend a delivery deadline, as described in section 59, upon the request of the regional agency or the agency responsible for project delivery. No deadline may be extended more than once. However, there are separate deadlines for allocation, for award of a contract, for expenditures for project development or right-of-way, and for project completion, and each project component has its own deadlines. The Commission may consider the extension of each of these deadlines separately.

The Commission may grant a dead line extension only if it finds that an unforeseen and extraordinary circumstance beyond the control of the responsible agency has occurred that justifies the extension. The extension will not exceed the period of delay directly attributable to the extraordinary circumstance and will in no event be for more than 20 months.

All requests for project delivery deadline extensions should be submitted directly to the appropriate Caltrans district at least 60 days prior to the specific deadline for which the particular extension is requested (e.g., 60 days prior to June 30 to request the extension of allocation deadlines). The extension request should describe the specific circumstance that justifies the extension and identify the delay directly attributable to that circumstance. Caltrans will review extension requests and forward them to the Commission for action. Unlike proposed STIP amendments, extension requests do not require a 30-day notice period.

61. STIP Amendments. The Commission may amend the STIP at the request of the entity, either Caltrans or the regional agency, that originally nominated the STIP project(s) to be changed or deleted by the amendment. The Commission will amend the STIP only after providing at least 30 days public notice. Projects proposed by amendment will be subject to the same standards and criteria that apply to RTIP and ITIP proposals. Each amendment will designate from which county share(s) or interregional share the project is being funded, and the Commission will adjust share balances accordingly. An amendment may not create or increase a county share surplus unless the Commission finds that it can approve an advance of the county share (see sections 23 and 55 of these guidelines).

All regional requests for STIP amendm ents shall be submitted directly to the appropriate Caltrans district. Caltrans will review proposed amendments and forward them to the Commission for public notice and action. The Commission encourages Caltrans, in cooperation with regions and Commission staff, to develop and implement a set of procedures to standardize and streamline the amendment process and to enhance the accountability of regions for amendments of projects which are not administered by Caltrans.

An amendment may change the scope, cost or program year of any STIP project, except that the Commission will not amend the STIP:

- to change Caltrans right-of-way costs, except in conjunction with the annual right-of-way plan;
- to delete or change the program year of the funding for any project component after the beginning of the fiscal year for which it is programmed;
- to change Caltrans project development costs, except when the change in total project development costs is 20 percent or more unless the cost change is the result of a STIP amendment to change the scope of the project; or
- to change the programming of any funds after they have been allocated.

62. Project Delivery. It is a Commission policy that all transportation funds allocated through the State be programmed and expended in a timely manner in order to avoid accumulation of excessive fund balances and to avoid lapse of federal funds. It is the Commission's goal that transportation projects programmed against funds allocated through the State be delivered no later than scheduled in the appropriate transportation programming document. For purposes of this goal, delivery means allocation or obligation of funds for the programmed project or project component. For projects delivered by Caltrans, the Commission's delivery goal each fiscal year (FY) is 90% of the projects programmed in each FY and 100% of the funds programmed in each FY. For projects delivered by agencies other than Caltrans the Commission's delivery goal each FY is 90% of the projects programmed in each FY and 95% of the funds programmed in each FY.

Caltrans and each responsible regional agency or county transportation commission will provide the Commission with status reports on project delivery in accordance with the following schedule:

Caltrans: Quarterly reports in October, January, April and July of each FY for projects to be delivered by Caltrans.

Regions/CTCs: Semiannual reports in January and July of each FY for projects to be delivered by agencies other than Caltrans.

The Commission staff in consultation with Caltrans, regional agencies and county transportation commissions will develop a format and content requirement for the delivery reports.

X. STIP Development Schedule and Procedures:

63. STIP Development Schedule. The following schedule lists the major milestones for the development and adoption of the STIP:

Caltrans presents Draft Fund Estimate to the CTC.	By July 15 of odd numbered years.
CTC adopts Fund Estimate.	By August 15 of odd numbered years.
Regions submit RTIPs.	By December 15 of odd numbered years.
Caltrans submits ITIP.	By December 15 of odd numbered years.
CTC STIP hearing, North.	Jan. – Feb. even numbered years.
CTC STIP hearing, South.	Jan. – Feb. even numbered years.
CTC publishes staff recommendations.	At least 20 days prior to adoption of STIP.
CTC adopts STIP.	By April 1 of even numbered years.

64. STIP Hearings. Prior to the adoption of the STIP the Commission will hold two STIP hearings for Caltrans and regional agencies, one in northern California and one in southern California. By statute, the hearings are “to reconcile any objections by any county or regional agency to the department’s program or the department’s objections to any regional program.” The Commission will expect any objections to the Caltrans program or to a regional program to be expressed in terms of the undesirable impact that the program would have on the implementation of the respective agency’s long range transportation plan(s).
65. Commission Staff Recommendations. Prior to adoption of the STIP, the Commission staff shall prepare recommendations to the Commission for the adoption of the STIP. The staff recommendations will be made available to the Commission, Caltrans and the regional agencies at least twenty days prior to the adoption of the STIP.

66. Transmittal of RTIPs. By statute, regional agencies are required to adopt and submit their RTIPs both to the Commission and to Caltrans no later than December 15 of odd numbered years . The Commission requests that each region send two copies of its RTIP, addressed to:

Robert I. Remen, Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
Mail Station 52
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Caltrans requests that each region send at least one copy to the appropriate Caltrans District Director and five copies addressed to:

Jim Nicholas, Program Manager
Transportation Programming
Attention: Office of STIP
Department of Transportation
Mail Station 82
P. O. Box 942874
Sacramento, CA 94274-0001

XI. APPENDIX

STIP PROJECT FACT SHEET

- A. Project Fact Sheet pages A-1 and A-2
- B. Project Fact Sheet (Funding) pages B-1 and B-2

(Note: a template of fact sheets may be found at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/TransPrg/stip>)